

Northwest Salmon Fisheries II

Date of Declaration/Determination: August 2, 1995

Location: Pacific Northwest (Coastal Washington, Oregon, and Northern California)

Description/Cause: Continuation of conditions that led to the substantial losses of fishery resources compounded by continuing effects of El Nino and years of drought that was the basis for the 1994 declaration.

Authority: Sec 308(d) of IFA

Appropriation: FY 1995--\$13 million

Assistance Provided:

Funding was provided to the three Northwest States as follows:

	<u>Buyback</u>	<u>Habitat</u>	<u>Data</u>	<u>State Total</u>
Washington	5.2	1.4	0.4	7.0
Oregon	-0-	2.7	2.3	5.0
California	-0-	0.6	0.1	0.7
Total	5.2	4.7	2.8	12.7*

* Total does not include \$300K to NOAA for administrative costs

The funds were used to continue the NEAP to assist fisherman and restore the fishery through the fishing permit buyback program, habitat restoration, and data collection jobs program initiated in response to the first disaster declaration.

The Washington State permit buyback was extended. Buyback was based on low ratio of offer/income history by gear. This second phase of the buyback purchased 142 permits at a total of \$5.08 million. Buyback amounts ranged from \$700-\$75,000, and averaged about \$35,700.

The funds were used to employ a total of - fishermen in habitat restoration jobs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service. In addition--were employed in data collection efforts administered by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Other Information

Commercial Fishery Failure:

The Pacific Fishery Management Council estimated that, as late as 1988, there were about 5,300 commercial salmon troll vessels fishing off the West Coast, compared to about 2,300 vessels in 1992--a decline of 57 percent over that period. Commercial salmon fishermen earned \$33.8 million, while marine recreational anglers spent \$79.5 million for West Coast salmon in 1992. In 1992, 140 West Coast processing plants or buying stations processed 72 million pounds of finished salmon products worth approximately \$170 million. These plants employed approximately over 2,000 people in the processing of salmon and other West Coast fish.

Processing employees were ineligible for assistance. Number of fishermen and processing employees affected: Based on a review of economic models, NMFS estimated that the 1992 West Coast salmon industry (commercial and charter) involved 8,400 full-time work years. However, much of that employment is part time, so that the number of individuals impacted by the resource is presumably much greater.

Total Number of fishermen receiving aid, NEAP I and II:

NEAP License Buyback: 438 fishermen
Habitat Jobs-358 fishermen
Data Jobs-195 fishermen

Estimates do not reflect number of jobs. For example, habitat restoration projects in California provided 233 part or full time jobs for varying lengths of time that were filled by 108 fishermen earning \$1.5 million in wages. The Habitat Data Jobs Program created over 500 jobs while the Data Jobs Program created over 300 jobs

Average # of months that fishermen worked before the disaster:

NMFS has no data upon which to provide such estimates. Fishermen range from those fully dependent on the fishery to those who fish in other fisheries, to fishermen who also have land-based jobs. This fishery is a limited entry fishery and every vessel must fish under a permit. Consequently, the number of active fishermen and the degree of their activity depends on the amount of harvest available.

EDA Response:--EDA was projected to provide \$882,000 for grants to communities for tourism development and to tribes for stream

reclamation.

Number of Fishermen and vessels actually employed in cooperative research and observer program. Under the Data Jobs program, 195 different fishermen were hired. NMFS is still waiting on the final report associated with the Data Jobs program, and did not request the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to maintain detailed statistics on number of vessels hired. However, 27 research projects were funded, the majority of which required the use of chartered vessels. Typically 1-3 vessels were hired but one project chartered 12 vessels.

Impacts on subsistence fishermen - Some tribal fishermen may have sold commercial salmon permits as some tribal fishermen fish not only in tribal fisheries but in commercial fisheries. Tribal fishermen also participated in habitat restoration projects. Although data are unavailable on the number of subsistence fishermen actually hired, tribal related projects suggest that the Data Jobs Program and the habitat restoration projects each employed about ten tribal fishermen.

Regional unemployment rates: Coastal county unemployment rates for those counties affected by the Disaster ranged from 5 percent to 12 percent for 1994. The median county unemployment rate for 1994 was 8 percent.

Alternatives for fishermen. Typically fishermen have few alternatives other than participating in other fisheries. For West Coast salmon fishermen, options are few because participation in other fisheries would require already owning, buying, or leasing a permit for that fishery. Harvest quotas for many of these fisheries have been declining.

Outcome to the Fishery-No decrease in catch as harvest levels are based on forecasts of returning salmon not on the number of fishermen or vessels. Funding amount was not sufficient to cause major restructuring of local and regional economy. Long term capacity and potential effort was reduced in Washington salmon fisheries as approximately one third of the available permits were purchased. Habitat restoration projects will aid recovery of salmon. Extrapolation of Washington State Habitat Data to the entire Habitat Jobs Program suggests that over 230 miles of livestock exclusion fencing was installed, over 89 miles of stream/habitat was restored, over 210,000 trees were planted and over 2100 miles of streams were surveyed. Research done under the Data jobs program is being used in stock assessment work and in determining commercial and recreational fishing allocations.